

NEWS RELEASE

Task Force Hope

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Recovery Field Office
<http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil>
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEMA, Army Corps' Operation Blue Roof Now in Jasper, Lawrence, Walthall and Wayne counties

Registration centers opened in Clarke, Lincoln, Pike, Simpson, Smith counties

October 10, 2005 1130 HRS CST

HATTIESBURG, Miss. -- FEMA's Operation Blue Roof has now moved into the Mississippi counties of Jasper, Lawrence, Walthall and Wayne. The program provides the installation of rolled plastic sheeting on damaged roofs, thereby helping to protect property and allowing residents to remain in their homes.

In order to qualify for a Blue Roof:

- Owner must apply (not renter or tenant)
- Home must be occupied
- Residential buildings only; commercial buildings are not eligible
- Repairs to living space only; no carports, porches or garages
- 50 percent of roof must be remaining and structurally able to support a work crew
- No tile or slate roof; some metal roofs and most flat roofs may not qualify
- Trees and debris must be removed from roof

Before work can begin, the property owner must complete a Right of Entry Form to allow Army Corps of Engineers roofing teams to assess their property and assign the work to a Blue Roof contractor.

Right of Entry (ROE) Collection centers managed by the Army Corp of Engineers are now open in these counties

- Walthall: Library, Union St., Tylertown (Mon-Sat 8-6, Sun 1-6)
- Wayne: City Auditorium, 1008 Benton St. Waynesboro (Mon-Sat 8-6, Sun 1-6)
- Jasper: Piggly Wiggly, 9 East Bay Ave., Bay Springs (8-6)
- Lawrence: To be determined.

There are also ROE centers in Clarke, Lincoln, Pike, Simpson and Smith counties. Blue Roof installations in these counties will be done either by volunteer organizations or Corps contractors. The following Mississippi Sign Up Centers will be supporting the new counties:

- Lincoln: Old Bill's Dollar Store, 524 Schwem Ave., Brookhaven (Mon-Sat 8-6, Sun 1-6)
- Pike: Old Blockbuster Bldg., 1015 Delaware St., McComb (9-5) **Opens 10/10**
- Smith: Multipurpose Ag Building, Raleigh (9-5) **Opens 10/10**
- Clarke: Multipurpose Bldg, West McDonald St, Quitman, (9-5) **Opens 10/10**
- Simpson: Wal-Mart Parking Lot, Frontage Road, Highway 49, Magee (9-5) **Opens 10/10**

Residents with severely damaged roofs are encouraged to register as soon as possible so that work can be completed before cooler weather reaches the state.

Registrations will be taken through the month of October. The Corps will continue to install temporary roofs for all those that register for the program.

FEMA's Operation Blue Roof is a priority mission managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It helps to get residents back into their homes, quickly and protect personal property not already damaged by the Hurricane.

The Army Corp of Engineers has more than 300 contract crews completing over 1,000 roofs each day, and has already covered 27,000 Mississippi roofs.

Additional information is available at www.mvd.usace.army.mil or by phone at 1-888-ROOF-BLU or 1-888-766-3258.